THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) The Central Government does not fix target for development and extension of small scale industries in the country. However, projections for each Five Year Plan are made. As per the report of the Working Group on Small Scale Industries for the Tenth Five Year Plan, the projections for the anticipated number of small scale industries functioning and number of people likely to be provided with job at the beginning and at the end of the Plan are as under :—

Tenth Five Year Plan	Anticipated number of small scale industries functioning	No. of people likely to be provided job
Beginning of Tenth Five Year Plan (i.e. by the end of Ninth Plan 2001-02)	35.13 lakhs nos.	193.07 lakhs nos.
At the end of Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07)	43.78 lakshs nos.	237.17 lakhs nos.

Employment in Small Scale Industries

1036. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to generate employment opportunities and promote small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTERY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Promotion and development of Small Scale Industrial sector has been conscious policy of the Government as the sector is the major contributor to generation of employment opportunities in the country. With a view to further strengthen the SSI sector, the Government announced a Comprehensive Policy Package on 30th August, 2000 which provides enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructure and market facilities and incentives for technology upgradation. The Package aims to enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, leading to higher growth and greater employment opportunities.

Employment generation potential in SSIs

1037. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is enormous untapped potential for employment generation in the small scale sector and efforts need to be made to strengthen its commercial viability, enhance its technologies base, improve quality and productivity, step up its marketing and make fresh investments in the sector; and

(b) if so, what is the action plan to achieve these objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Number of promotional Schemes are implemented by the Ministry of Small Scale Industries to provide an impetus for the growth and development of small scale sector as well as for creating employment opportunities. These Schemes and Programmes *inter-alia* include, Exemption in Excise Duty up to Rs. 1 crore turnover & Enactment of Delayed Payment Act for facilitating prompt payment to improve commercial viability; National Equity Fund Scheme &